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Wednesday November 20 1996

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The MPs made in Fleet Street

Hold the front bench

G2 pages 10/11

The German question

Burdened by the past, fearful of the future

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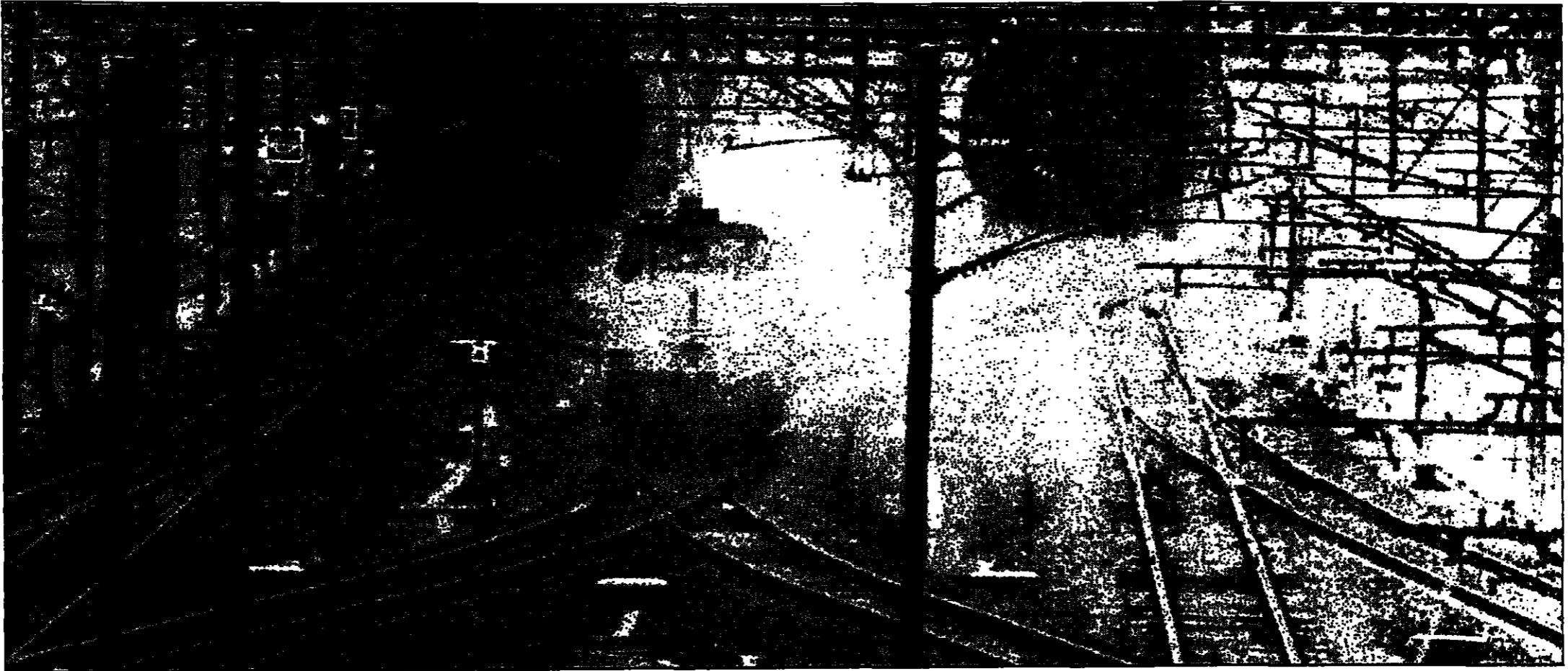
Society

Squatters in the rainforest

G2 pages 10/11

'This was an unpleasant incident which should be seen as a satisfactory test of existing security systems'

Eurotunnel chief Patrick Ponsolle



A locomotive approaching the French end of the tunnel yesterday. Around a third of the tunnel was seriously damaged, and full service is unlikely to be resumed for at least a month

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GILES

Is the Channel tunnel safe?

Inquiry to focus on why train stopped

Rebecca Smithers and Sarah Bosley

A FULL-scale Anglo-French inquiry was under way last night into the spectacular Channel Tunnel freight train blaze...

...the tunnel with toxic fumes. why it took the French authorities one hour to alert the British fire brigade why ventilation systems failed to disperse smoke...

The 34 people were rescued from the train included 19 Britons who needed hospital treatment after suffering the effects of fumes and shock. The train driver Emilie Gard was the most seriously injured, but all the casualties were released yesterday...



'I sat in the corner preparing to die. I thought I was a goner'

Lorry driver Ian Edwards yesterday

...said 'Right they're here'. I heard the door open. All they said was 'Alex, aller - go, go.' Last night Eurotunnel's president Patrick Ponsolle described the fire as an 'unpleasant incident'...

bound shuttle described how the fire broke out more than 11 miles into the tunnel just after 9pm British time on Monday. The fire took some 14 hours to extinguish, after half the train and around one-third of the tunnel had been seriously damaged...

day that the freight shuttles had never been given as much consideration by Eurotunnel as the car shuttles, and that the BSC had warned about their dangers. He also accused the debt-ridden operator of 'cost-cutting'...

quacy of the safety procedures and any steps which can be taken to try to make sure similar incidents do not happen again in the future. It must be published in full' he said.

Help to ease the crisis in the NHS... learn first aid

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

B RITAIN must become a nation of first-aiders to ease pressure on struggling NHS casualty units, a government report said yesterday. Emergency care skills could become part of the driving test...

proof of under-investment in health services. Alastair Henderson, of Unison, the biggest health union, said: 'Having people training in first aid is all well and good. But it's no substitute for a properly resourced A&E service.'

'This attitude, in the group's view, needs to be challenged because it is in such situations that a bystander with emergency care skills could make a real difference. A national education campaign should teach people how to recognise an emergency, how to treat it and how to seek further assistance.'

Libelled former Irish PM faces £1m legal costs

Maggie O'Kane

T HE former Irish prime minister, Albert Reynolds, today faces a legal bill of up to £1 million, despite a jury deciding he was libelled by the Sunday Times. After a 24-day hearing and 18 hours of deliberations, a High Court jury in London found in favour of Mr Reynolds but awarded "zero" damages...



...lied and misled the Dail over the events leading to his resignation in 1994. It had not acted maliciously. It had simply repeated allegations made in the privileged surroundings of the Irish parliament.

defended Harry Whelehan — then recently promoted from attorney-general to president of the Irish high court — against criticism for delays in extraditing paedophile priest Brendan Smyth, to Northern Ireland. Mr Reynolds denied deceiving his Labour coalition partner, Dick Spring, and some of his Dail colleagues about his knowledge of the case...

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The Guardian

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Paul Nicholas as Christ in 1972 PHOTOGRAPH: JANE BOWEN

The theatre has been closed for more than 50 years — the show is 25 years old but now it all represents a bright new hope as rock opera returned to the West End last night

Clare Longrigg on a musical revival

Second coming at the Lyceum

HERE'S no business like old showbusiness. A new production of Jesus Christ Superstar opened last night, 25 years after its world premiere in the United States. The grandfather of rock opera is being revived at the Lyceum theatre in the Strand, which reopens as a theatre after 55 years.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice musical opened in London's West End in 1972, and went on to gross £7.5 million during its eight-year London run. It was the longest running musical until overtaken by other Lloyd Webber offerings — Cats, Starlight Express and Phantom of the Opera.

The Lyceum has been dark for more than 10 years; before that it was a dance hall, a bingo parlour and a venue for the Miss World contest. The refit has cost £15 million.

Jesus is played by a 25-year-old Welsh rock singer-songwriter, Steve Balsamo, who was launched on to the public consciousness in July as the opening act of the Prince's Trust Masters Of Rock concert in front of 150,000 people in Hyde Park.

According to director Gale Edwards, Balsamo is uncannily suitable for the part of Jesus. "He's got a great charisma."

Rock opera has returned from the 1970s, with tank tops, huge sideburns and lava lamps. A revival of Hair was staged in London in 1993, but the Age of Aquarius, it seemed, no longer held the same attraction, and the musical did not last.

James Thorne, managing director of the Really Useful Theatre Company, which is producing the show, said the piece seemed right for revival: "It's rock opera. I think there is a real renaissance of rock'n'roll. We have tried to go back to the complete original score as much as possible. If you think the original cast were using hand-held mikes — this was before the age of radio mikes. When it's done with modern sound techniques it sounds like today."

The production has tried to remove the show from its 1970s garb, taking it as far as possible from modern styling. Mr Thorne said: "A big factor was the Lyceum Theatre becoming available. I was a kid when I saw the Australian production in the 1970s... It's quite a confrontational piece, and we wanted to do it in a way which avoids too much technology."

Designer John Napier has done just that, by pouring rubble on the stage and placing planks across the proscenium arch.

"One hopes the whole look of the production is that it could have taken place any time in the last 2,000 years," said Mr Thorne.

The musical launched Andrew Lloyd Webber on to the international stage, but its marathon runs also launched a series of stellar careers.

Paul Nicholas, who played Jesus in the original London cast, said he found it a harrowing role: "I was so upset at being on the cross that I wept the whole way through the scene. I felt guilty about being up there, as if it were an awful cheat."

Mr Nicholas went on to a highly successful career in television, and is producing the hit West End production of Grease.

The musical also launched singer Yvonne Elliman, who played Mary Magdalene in the original Broadway cast, and reached the top 50 with her signature tune, I Don't Know How to Love Him.

The last revival of Jesus Christ Superstar was in concert form at the Barbican theatre in 1989, but this was soundly upstaged by the Japanese kabuki version at the Dominion in 1991.

"The most sensationally wonderful production I have ever seen anywhere," said Andrew Lloyd Webber modestly. "It was everything I would have wished the Broadway production to be 20 years ago."

Enthusiastic notices remarked, perhaps unkindly, that Tim Rice's lyrics sounded much better in Japanese.



Joanna Ampil as Mary Magdalene and Steve Balsamo as Christ in the new production PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD MILDENHALL

BBC in call for BSkyB curbs

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

SIR Christopher Blund, chairman of the BBC, yesterday delivered the corporation's strongest attack on Rupert Murdoch's potential stranglehold over the gateway to digital television.

He called for clear and enforceable rules to ensure that the BBC and other broadcasters can compete with Mr Murdoch's growing BSkyB satellite operation.

Sir Christopher said: "News International and BSkyB between them have a monopoly of satellite distribution in the UK, dominate the provision of programmes to cable homes, and have a near-monopoly of those programming 'battering rams', sport and movies."

He told a conference organised by the Westminster Media Forum that Mr Murdoch owned the proprietary technology — the set-top box decoders — that will control access to digital television and the systems that will manage subscriptions to pay-TV.

Mr Murdoch plans to launch 200 digital satellite channels next year and his opponents fear he will be able to prevent other broadcasters from being able to offer satellite services.

Sir Christopher, who said he was not "whingeing", admitted that Mr Murdoch had built up his position through risk-taking and massive investment. But he warned: "I am certain that it would be unwise to rely on the normal process of commercial negotiation to sort out the gateway issue."

He was far from confident that the BBC would be able to agree satisfactory terms for digital access, and said Mr Murdoch could jeopardise the future of digital terrestrial television — due to launch in mid-1998 with up to 36 channels — unless the Government regulated the decoders. It should be mandatory that set-top boxes for digital terrestrial and satellite services were compatible.

Sir Christopher said broadcast information was too important to be left to market pressures alone. "We should not, if we value democracy, create an 'information underclass' through allowing subscription and pay channels to become the main source of news and current affairs."

Long playing record

The musical ran on Broadway from 1971 to 1973, and grossed £2.8 million at the box office. Critics hailed it as "Best English musical score in years" and, less favourably, "Closer to rock than rock musical".

Ran in West End from 1972-1980, becoming longest-running musical. Grossed £7.5 million. Still the fifth longest running musical in West End history.

Has been staged in at least 15 countries, including Kenya and Mexico.

Second run on Broadway in 1977, but staggered along only for three months.

Soundtrack made it to top of the US charts three times. Japanese kabuki version by Yuichiro Yamaguchi came to London Dominion in 1992.

A 1973 film starring Carl Anderson as Jesus and Yvonne Elliman as Mary Magdalene took £8.6 million at the box office.

1972 Australian concert version attracted audience of nearly a million.

Camelot profits fall in an instant

Lottery bets on midweek draw from February to boost sales

Dan Atkinson

THE controversial midweek lottery draw will begin on February 5, operator Camelot announced yesterday. It expects this second weekly draw to increase takings by up to 20 per cent, boosting the average total bet every seven days from about £59 million to about £82 million.

Jackpot payouts on the midweek game are expected to total £4 million, with one-third of stakes shifting to the Wednesday draw. BBC TV will be screening the new game, and Camelot denied it was negotiating with ITV for both draws to shift to Channel 3 when the BBC contract runs out at the end of next year.

Critics of the Wednesday game have suggested it will further divert money from charitable giving and will tempt people to gamble more

than they can afford. The Prime Minister has defended the midweek idea, saying: "I don't see why the nanny state should stop this if there's a demand for it."

Camelot needs a new product to fill the gap left by a collapse in sales of Instant scratch cards; the consortium disclosed yesterday that Instant sales in the 24 weeks to September 14 had more than halved to £419 million, from £871 million during the same period last year. Weekly sales have dropped from a peak of £44 million to £17 million.

James Thorne, Instant's betting dragged Camelot's overall profits down to £31.5 million before tax against £36.2 million during the same period in 1995. Prize payouts were down to £1.06 billion from £1.27 billion last time.

Camelot said the shrinking public appetite for scratch cards was in line with experience of other lottery opera-



Game plan... Tim Holley, chief executive of Camelot

tors. Fresh products would be needed throughout Camelot's remaining six-year franchise period to stimulate demand, said chief executive Tim Holley. He said the company had "a lot of ideas on new games", but would not elaborate.

Mr Holley said it was too early to say whether the television contract would remain

with the BBC after next year.

Camelot said it had started to examine the possibility of overseas expansion. It would not comment on suggestions that it might bid for a national lottery in South Africa.

The consortium said any decision on lifting the ban on betting shops making books on lottery numbers was "properly a province of government", but warned that ending the prohibition could divert 20 per cent — £1 billion — of sales from Camelot to the bookies, depriving the "good causes" of their 28 per cent share of this sum.

Alongside the declining popularity of Instant, the main draw increased its take to £1.68 billion from £1.64 billion last time. At present, 30 million people play the National Lottery regularly and the average stake per person is £2.40.

The company's main shareholders — Cadbury Schweppes, de La Rue, ICL, GTEch and Racal Electronics — will share a £10 million half-year dividend.

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Serra Pelada, once a raucous boom town, is now a ghost. A sign in the street offers "One Hour Processing" but it refers to malaria tests, not film. Jan Rocha on the destruction of Brazil's rainforest

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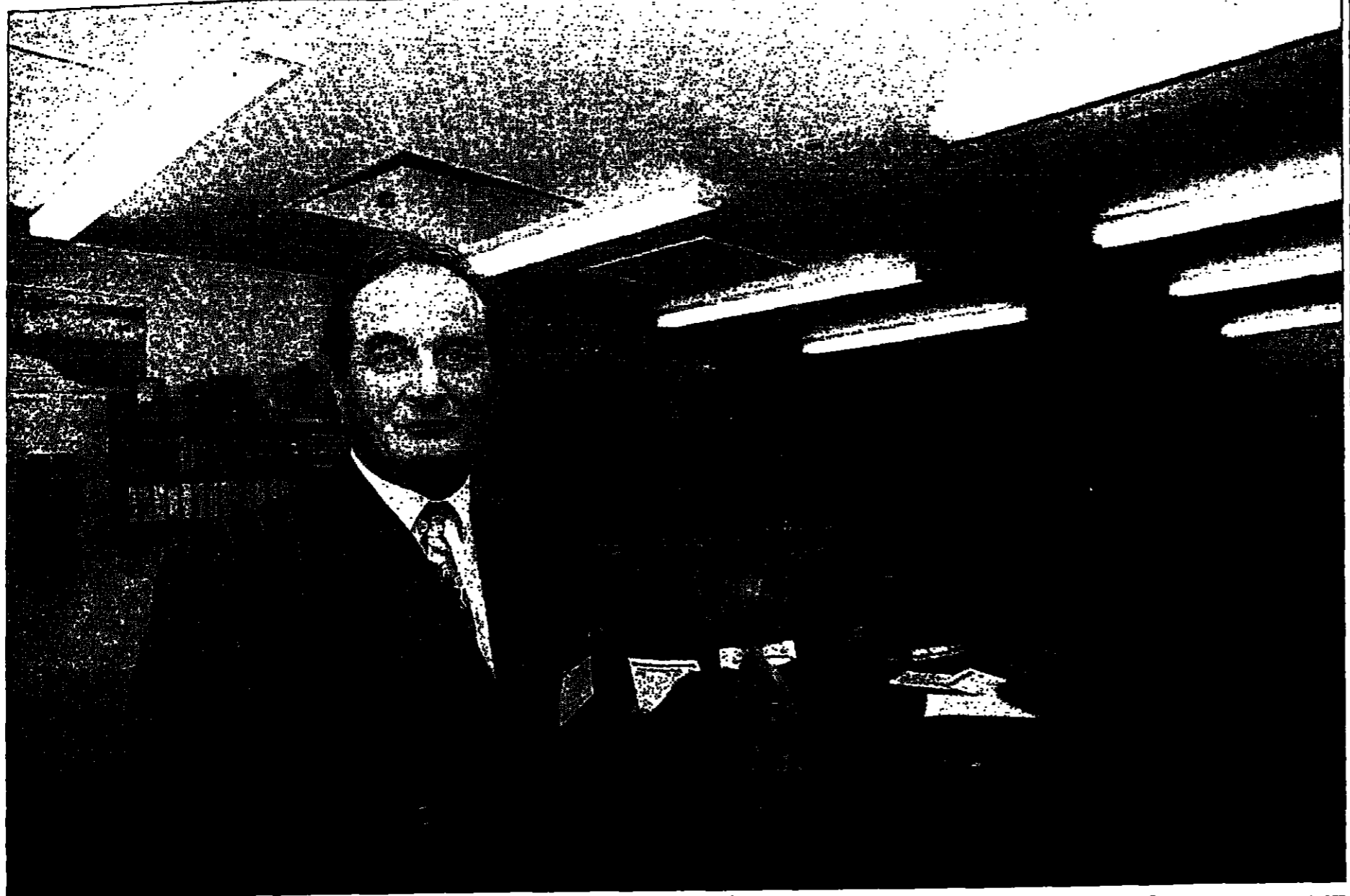
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4 BRITAIN



Brian Lippitt, head of Ramsgate School in Kent, cites the harmful effects of selection on his school, which he says is doing well despite its place in the table. PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Exam results below target

Shepherd claims the credit for modest improvement revealed in annual school league tables

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE Government was last night claiming credit for the improvements in GCSE and A level performance revealed in the annual league tables for schools in England and Wales published today.

But the increase was not enough to salvage any realistic chance of achieving the educational targets set for the year 2000 to ensure Britain can keep pace with its economic competitors.

The targets include the goal of 85 per cent of 15-year-olds having at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C, or their vocational equivalents. Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's senior curriculum adviser, has said that can only be achieved if the proportion reaching this level by the age of 16 rises to 55 per cent.

Today's figures show 44.5 per cent reached the standard — an increase of one percentage point on the year before.

Similar modest improvements were made at A level and in vocational qualifications. There was a slight drop in the numbers not achieving even the lowest grade in a single GCSE, but the figures indicate 50,000 (7.9 per cent) left school with nothing.

Gillian Shepherd, Education Secretary, sought to attribute rising standards to a ministerial decision to start publishing performance tables four years ago. "The tables have consistently driven up standards, school by school, college by college. This information provides an impetus for excellent schools and colleges to do even better, spurs those below average to set targets for improvement, and galvanises poor performers into action."

But the headmaster of the school with the best GCSE results said the tables were "a cancer on the body of education". Martin Stephen, head of Manchester Grammar, where all 207 GCSE candidates got at least five top grades, said the tables had become "an illness, causing irreparable harm by bringing in a huge amount of bad practice".

Exam results in state sector



Top state comprehensives at GCSE
% of 15-year-olds getting 5 or more grade A*-C GCSE 1996*

Liverpool Elks Coat, Liverpool (Boys)	97
Old Swinford Hospital, Stratford, W. Midlands (GM, Boys)	95
Coopers' Company & Coborn School, Essex (GM, Mixed)	93
St Albans Girls' School, St Albans, Herts (Girls)	93
The Kings' School, Peterborough (GM, Mixed)	92

100 schools achieved at least 80%; all were selective except three private schools

Top comprehensives/colleges at A level
Average point score per A/AS level entry A/ASpoints 1996

Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge (Mixed)	7.5
Tring School, Herts (VC, Mixed)	7.1
Coptall School, Barnet, London (Girls)	7.1
Durham Johnston Comprehensive School, Durham (Mixed)	7.0
Hitchin Girls' School, Herts (Girls)	7.0
Thomas Tallis School, Greenwich, London (Mixed)	7.0

Bottom local education authorities at GCSE
% of 15-year-olds getting 5 or more grade A*-C (excluding independent schools)

Islington	17.4
Kingston upon Hull	22.8
Knowsley	23.6
Tower Hamlets	23.9
Southwark	24.6

Fastest improving comprehensives at GCSE
% of 15-year-olds getting 5 or more grade A*-C, ranked by improvement over last year

Banovallum School, Horsham, Lincs. (Mod. Mixed)	28	69
St John's RC Comp, Bishop Auckland Co. Durham (VA, Mixed)	24	53
Stanchester Community School, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Yeovil	24	50
Hillview School for Girls, Tonbridge, Kent (GM, Mod Girls)	21	56
St Bernard's RC school, High Wycombe, Bucks (VA, Mixed)	21	53
Saxby's School, Bruton, Somerset (GM, Mixed)	21	84
The Isles of Solihull County Secondary School, St Mary's (Mixed)	21	73

VA—voluntary aided; GM—grant maintained; Mod—secondary modern

Trying hard

Hard-pressed head bemoans 'negative' effect of tables

FOR Ramsgate School in Kent, the league table results appear bleak — 1 per cent with five A to C grades, writes Donald Macleod.

Yet for a secondary modern, the 63 per cent who gained at least five A to G grades in summer represent an achievement for the pupils and a big improvement on four years ago when only half did so, insists head teacher Brian Lippitt.

Since he arrived in April 1995 he has seen the morale and self-esteem of pupils and staff rising. "The message is that this place is recovering and doing well."

It is a message he must hammer constantly to staff

Success no surprise at 'pushy' seat of learning

BRASS music echoed triumphantly down the arched corridors of the Liverpool Blue Coat School yesterday as it celebrated a claim at the top of the school league tables for the fourth successive year, writes Martin Halsall.

"We are pleased but not hysterical," said John Speller, headmaster for the last 7 1/2 years. "I think the boys and girls quite like to be associated with a successful school but this is not something that's come out of the blue."

Historically the school, founded as an orphanage by an Anglican priest and a philanthropic merchant in 1718 — and which started to take boarders to cure "habits of idleness" — had much to be modest about. Its curriculum has developed substantially beyond the original "teaching poor

Top marks

children to read, write and cast accounts" and it is only in the last 25 years that it has moved to the top stream for academic results, said Mr Speller.

It moved from the city centre to its home in Liverpool suburbia in 1908, and its character will change again next year as it introduces an entry exam and becomes grant maintained, though not fee-paying.

Entry at 11 produces four times the applicants the 900 pupil school can accommodate, and up to 110 apply for the 30 additional places in the sixth form, which now includes girls.

Mr Speller is proud to lead a school commended by government inspectors for both its scholarship and the cultural and personal development of its pupils, most of whom go to university. Indeed, the Blue Coat is rated "one of the 30 or so outstandingly successful schools in the country" by Ofsted inspectors, he said.

Laura Braven, a 16-year-old maths, physics and Spanish student said she was thrilled at her school's success. "Teachers push you harder than at other schools and that's important. You will have more chance of university," she said.

News in brief

Financial troubles hit NHS trusts

ALMOST one in three NHS trusts is reporting a worsening of its financial position since April, according to a survey released today. Trusts are closing hospital beds, cutting staff and making patients wait longer for treatment, the survey says. Four trusts say their finances have deteriorated by more than £1 million.

The survey was carried out by the Healthcare Financial Management Association, which represents NHS finance officers, and covered 130 trusts. Thirty-one per cent said their position had deteriorated since April. The association also surveyed some 30 health authorities, which pay trusts to provide health care, and more than half said their position had worsened — one in four reporting a deterioration of more than £1 million.

The Government is expected next week to announce extra funding for the NHS in 1997/98. Authorities and trusts are being told they will have to manage until then with what they have — although a blind eye may be turned to deficits and unpaid bills in the meantime. — David Brindle

Judge turns witness

JUDGE Timothy Milligan turned witness to send a petty thief and his friend to jail after he saw them passing drugs in the dock at Portsmouth crown court. He had spotted Mark Bryson passing a packet of cannabis wrapped in a piece of clingfilm to Michael Redding.

The judge was the principal witness at Chichester crown court yesterday when Bryson and Redding appeared on cannabis charges. Bryson was jailed for 15 months for supplying drugs and his co-defendant was jailed for a month for possession. Judge Milligan told the court he had seen Bryson pass something to his fellow defendant in the dock during the case, just as he was being released on bail.

"It was a very quick movement in the passing of the package but I was able to see it very clearly and ordered a search straight away," the judge said.

Boat had no lifejackets

AN EXETER inquest jury yesterday listed a string of safety faults as it returned a verdict of accidental death on two anglers who died when their Devon-based fishing boat sprang a leak and sank. The 24ft converted assault craft Blue Fin had no lifejackets or liferaft, and just one lifebelt for the five crew.

The Teignmouth-based boat sank in May 1995 with the loss of John Vince, 24, a single man from Teignmouth, and father of three Mark Stainer, 36, from Shaldon. Their friends Trevor Hall, 23, David Bayliss, 30, and Jeremy Jones, 48, swam ashore.

Absent fathers fail to pay

BARELY one in five absent fathers traced by the Child Support Agency is paying the full maintenance ordered, latest figures show. Only 21 per cent were paying in full in August, down from 28 per cent in May.

The drop in full compliance will disappoint ministers as the rate had been rising. However, the proportion of traced absent fathers paying nothing has stayed stable at 41 per cent, with the remaining 38 per cent paying up in part.

The CSA is now handling 512,000 cases in which a final or interim maintenance assessment has been made. — David Brindle

Footballer to stand trial

GLASGOW Rangers footballer Charlie Miller and Jimmy "Five Bellies" Gardner, friend and former minder of Paul Gascoigne, are to stand trial on December 2 after an alleged assault at a village pub, a court ruled yesterday. Neither was present for a procedural hearing at Paisley sheriff court, near Glasgow, when the trial date was set.

Miller, 29, of Glasgow, and Gardner, 31, of Dunston, Gateshead, and a third man not present yesterday, Steven McDermott, 31, from Gateshead, are accused with others unknown of assaulting a man in the Fox and Hounds, Houston, Renfrewshire, on March 17. They are further accused of shouting, swearing and committing a breach of the peace.

Car repair cost threat

CAR repair costs could double if a proposed European directive is adopted, the RAC warned yesterday. It said motorists and breakdown organisations would be unable to make repairs under the car bonnet if the directive gets the go ahead.

The Brussels proposals would limit access to on-board diagnostics — the in-car computers which control engine performance and other important vehicle systems.

According to the RAC, such a move would mean its patrolmen would have no alternative but to tow cars to a dealership where the correct access codes are held.

Love-sick Para killed wife, friend and himself

A SOLDIER killed his wife and her best friend before committing suicide after his marriage broke down, an inquest heard yesterday.

Lance Corporal Darren Mallia, aged 27, threw himself from a multi-storey car park after snubbing his wife Alexia and her friend Alison Williams.

Shortly before he died Mallia said he could not bear to live without Alexia and planned to kill her and himself. But the two friends he told did not take him seriously.

He fell he was being attacked from his wife because of her friendship with Miss Williams, aged 31.

On the night of the killings, Mallia — a soldier for 10 years, who was in the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment at Aldershot, Hampshire — had drunk with friends in a club. He then went to a house in the town he shared with Alexia, aged 28, until a month before the killings in August and stabbed both women in the neck. He then went to a car park in Aldershot and threw himself off the sixth floor, dying of a fractured skull and brain injuries.

The jury at the inquest in Alton, Hampshire, returned verdicts of unlawful killing on the two women and suicide on Mallia.

The North Hampshire coroner, who said there was no evidence the women were jealous lovers, told the jury: "Darren was infatuated with his wife. [He] thought Alison was alienating him from Alexia. Alexia had to die. She

Battle over 'stolen' French candlesticks

A PAIR of 19th century French candlesticks stolen in a chateau burglary in 1986 turned up for sale at Sotheby's eight years later, a High Court judge heard today.

The lady of the chateau, Nicole de Preval, blocked the sale with the help of the French police and Scotland Yard. But when she demanded the return of what she claims are her £80,000 family heirlooms, the dealer who put them up for auction said they were not hers and refused to hand them over.

Her counsel, Michael Gettleton, told Mrs Justice Arden the provenance of the pieces — which he said were made for her great grand father, Emile Martin, in 1846 by the sculptor Antoine-Louis Barye — was "rock solid".

Mrs de Preval, the 80-year-old widow of a French viscount, who lives in Paris, is suing antique dealer Adrian Alan for "delivery up" of the candlesticks or £50,000, plus interest and damages for alleged wrongful conversion.

Mr Alan, based in Brighton and with premises in Mayfair, London, contends he bought the pieces in good faith from the Cheriff Gallery in New York for about £5,000 and they are not the items stolen from Mrs de Preval.

Mr Gettleton said the candlesticks and many other valuables were stolen from the chateau, near Sagone in the district of Cher. The heavy marble centrepiece of the triptych was left behind.

Mrs de Preval was alerted

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War files reveal horror of island's SS camp

Madeline Bunting on brutal treatment meted out to slave labourers on Alderney

ALDERNEY prisoners were crucified on a camp gate, hung naked while SS guards threw buckets of cold water over them and beaten to death. Files on the treatment of eastern European slave workers in Britain's only second world war concentration camps revealed yesterday.

The 11 files, released at the Public Record Office, Kew, following their return from the German authorities investigating war crimes, fill in some of the missing history of Alderney's four slave labour camps. About half the Rus-

sian and Ukrainians employed on building German fortifications on the island died, according to British military intelligence reports.

A former slave labourer subsequently transferred to France told British authorities in 1944: "Too undernourished and exhausted to work efficiently, these men were mercilessly beaten by the German guards and frequently, when they were too weak to stand up, they were clubbed to death or finished off with a knife. Illness and disease became rampant."

The forced labourers — mostly from Russia and the



A policeman attends on German officers during the occupation of the Channel Islands, and right, Kurt Klebeck, SS deputy commandant of the Alderney camp, at home in Hamburg



Ukraine — were fed nothing but a watery cabbage soup and a tiny ration of bread. In June 1943 a German medical commission found that only half of a detachment of 1,500 forced labourers were still alive and of them 450 had gone to hospital.

The files are the last remaining official documents which were to have been held back until 2020. They were examined by the German authorities for evidence against 50-year-old Kurt Klebeck, the deputy SS commandant in charge of the Syt camp on Alderney following revelations in the Guardian in 1982 that

he was living in a Hamburg suburb.

The documents reveal how much detail the British authorities had about atrocities on Alderney, although no German has ever been prosecuted for war crimes on the island.

Several German officers responsible were held in a prisoner-of-war camp in London until being released without trial to go back to Germany in the late 1940s.

The files do not give a final death toll. Only 337 bodies were found buried but camp survivors put the total of deaths at over 1,000.

But the files corroborate Ukrainian and Russian survivors' descriptions of atrocities. According to one German prisoner of war, Werner Hohne, a ship was loaded with 300 Russians and then kept in Alderney harbour for three days in January 1943.

"In its hold these people were crowded together like herring without straw, beds or blankets. They were terribly emaciated. Food was a watery soup once a day.

"When opening the trap door a terrible stench met us. On the return journey on each occasion we had to take back frightfully emaciated

corpuses of Russians." Finally, a storm wrecked the ship. "Many Russians locked up in the hold lost their lives."

British military intelligence was told of a whip made of a "rubber rod covered with a steel spiral, with a plastic coating over it and covered again in a leather sock".

Arbitrary beatings and shootings of slave labourers were commonplace. Desperate for food, they were reduced to stealing pigswill and scrabbling with their bare hands for the buried intestines outside a slaughterhouse.

"When the guards got drunk at night all the prisoners were dragged out of doors, paraded and beaten up with pick shafts. Many Russians died under the blows.

Although most of the islanders had been evacuated before the Germans arrived a significant number of Guernsey men and Jersey men, enticed by the offer of higher rations, went to work on Alderney. The files reveal for the first time their names.

Twenty-two Guernsey men are listed as working for the Germans as lorry drivers, plasterers and labourers.

Several Jerseywomen, some of whom had had to be

sent home because they had venereal disease, are also listed.

The files enigmatically refer to an allegation that two Englishmen were killed and buried by the Germans. There have been no previous reports of Englishmen dying in the Alderney camps.

Former slave labourers also revealed to British military intelligence the atrocities they witnessed in Belarus and Estonia before they were transported to the Channel Islands; they had seen hundreds of Jews rounded up and shot and Jewish women and children raped.

COLLABORATORS: 'Some women act disgracefully. One of them rejoices in giving a Nazi salute when she passes a German'

THE names of alleged collaborators, informers and women who had children by German soldiers — some of whom may still be alive — are revealed in the papers released yesterday, writes Madeline Bunting.

Nineteen women and 20 men are named in the documents released by the Ministry of Defence. In contrast to previous documents in which names were blacked out for fear of causing difficulty for islanders or their descendants.

One woman is described as a "notorious informer against loyal British subjects. She was stated to have frequently received the reward of £100 for information. Another woman is "a Jerrybag and a nymphomaniac." One 20-year-old in 1944 is said to have informed against her father and had a child by a German. Another "rejoices in giving the Nazi salute

whenever she passes a German."

The British military intelligence reports, based on interrogation of islanders liberated by the Allies as they were travelling through France to German prisons, refer repeatedly to the "disgraceful" behaviour of some women.

"There are many illegitimate children born of German fathers. Many of the mothers are married to British soldiers. In one case, a woman with three children by her serving British husband has had three more by a German."

Informants to British intelligence said that young men were planning to tar and feather "troop carriers" after the war.

The informants (those interrogated by British military intelligence) speak of seven out of 10 women succumbing. Between 800 and 900 babies had been born

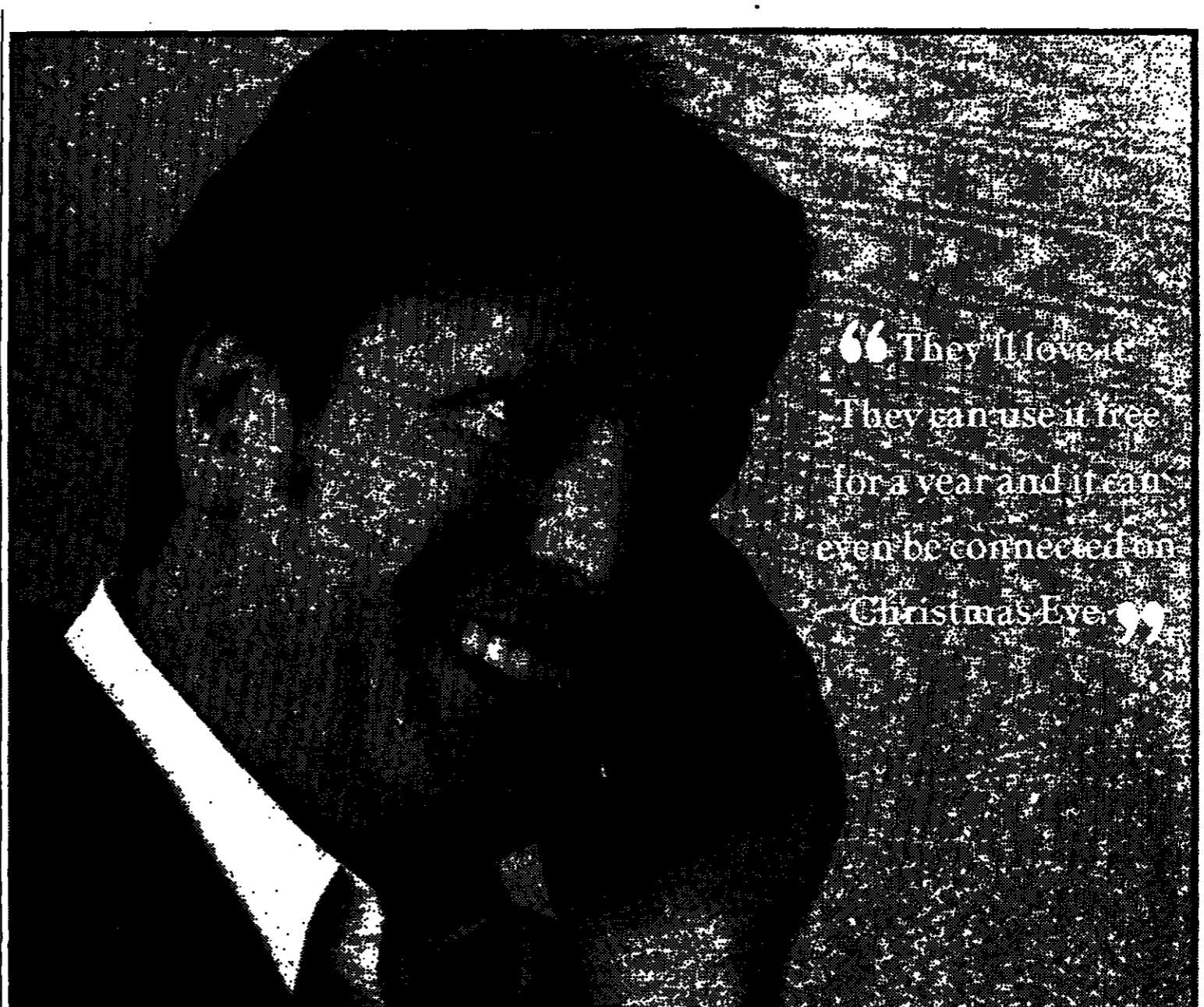
on Jersey of German fathers and many more are on the way. Abortions have been innumerable at a rate of £5.5s (£5.25) for a German father and £3.3s (£3.30) for a local man.

Equally controversial will be the informants' condemnation of officials in the island governments. The head of Guernsey's government, John Leale, who was knighted after the war, is described as "generally thought to be an evil influence in the island and is considered pro-German ... he lives well on far above the ordinary rations."

Another key member of the Guernsey government, Raymond Falla, "goes with the Germans on shooting parties and is considered to be a collaborator."

On Jersey, members of the Supreme Council were accused of using their position to secure extra supplies of scarce food and fuel. Black marketeering was alleged to be rampant among officials.

The breakdown of pre-war rules of conduct is evident in reports that German headquarters were receiving up to 200 letters a month from islanders informing on neighbours.



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6 WORLD NEWS

China tackles moral rot with a smile

Andrew Higgins in Beijing

LI SULLI, bus conductor and rising star of China's revived cult of the model worker, is far too busy these days being a celebrity to turn up for work.

Ms Li, aged 35 and mother to the requisite single child, has become chief cheerleader in a national campaign for rectitude and political obedience, an ill-defined pot-pourri of virtues known in Communist Party jargon as spiritual civilisation.

worked in the 1950s but has little relevance today. An irreverent rock guitarist recently featured the model worker at work. "I saw her once but that was months ago. It was before she became famous."

For the party, the only good model worker is a dead one

bus conductor in a rendition of Beautiful Girl — and was banned from performing for three years. He was accused of making "unsavoury gestures" on top of a piano.

gan "study Li Sull, achieve first-class service". Ms Li, meanwhile, is too busy preaching to bother much with practice.

ation Army who declared himself a "trustless screw of the revolution" and then perished when a telephone pole fell on his head.

photo opportunities and interviews and arranges her roadshows and speaking tours. Ms Li now has only one real rival at the summit of Chinese political correctness, a plodding model plumber from Shanghai called Xu Hu.

Bureaucrats treat their own people like cretins

Perpetually smiling and relentlessly good natured, Ms Li has joined an exclusive pantheon of heroes. The concept of national model workers was first developed in the 1950s but is now being dusted off by President Jiang Zemin

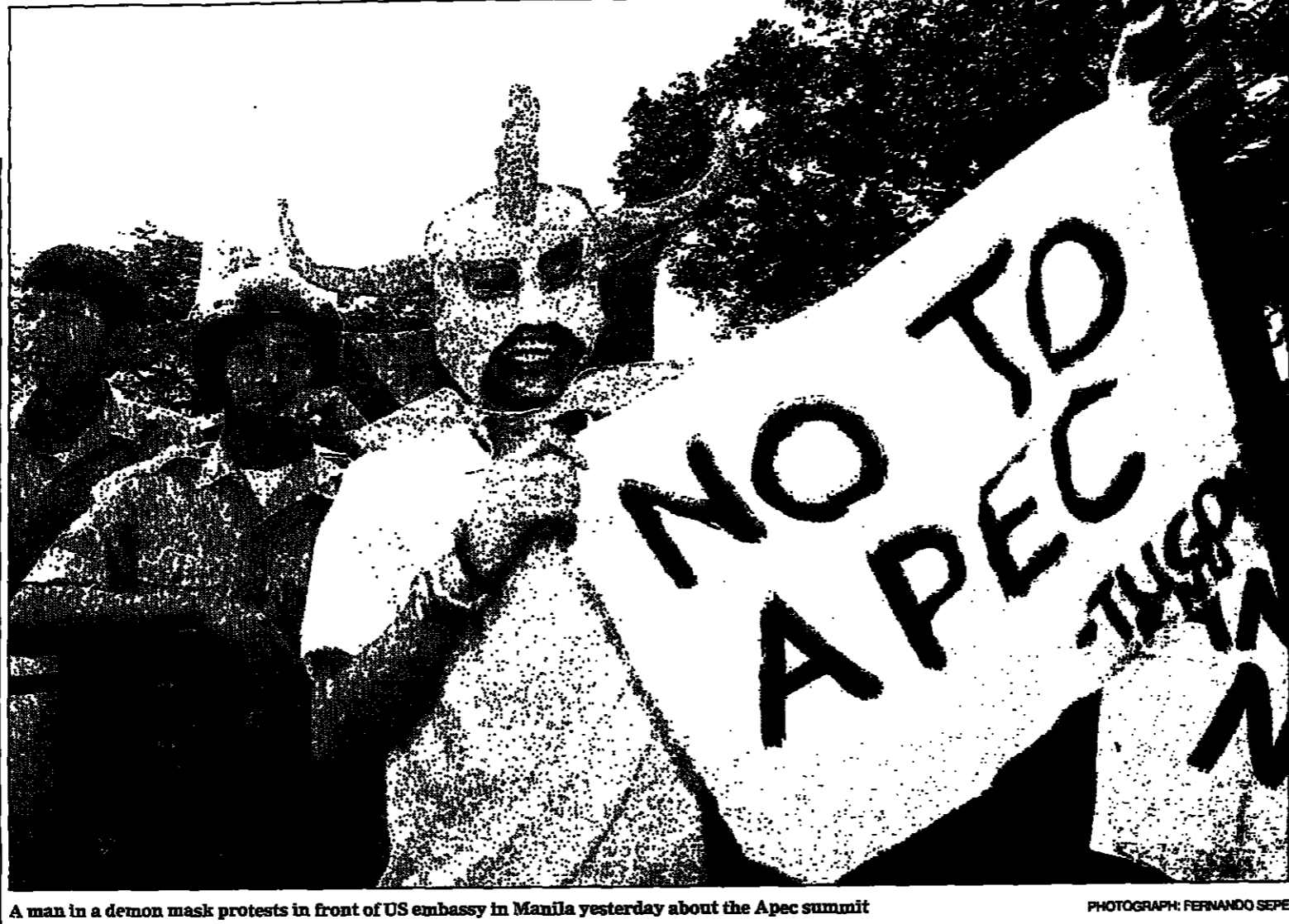
to counter the excesses created by Deng Xiaoping's credo of "to get rich is glorious". Most Chinese would applaud any serious attempt to stop the country's moral rot.

depot supervisor and keeper of a permanent shrine to the conductor at Beijing's gargantuan railway station, starting point for the number 21.

Summit time blues are back for Manila's poor

Keith Richburg in Manila

IMELDA Marcos, widow of former president Ferdinand Marcos, used to call it "beautification". In practice, it meant that whenever the Philippines hosted an international event the capital got a fresh coat of paint and the "eyesores" — thousands of squatter families living in shacks — were forcibly removed.



A man in a demon mask protests in front of US embassy in Manila yesterday about the Apec summit

Killing deepens Cambodian rift

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

LONG-TROUBLED relations between Cambodia's joint prime ministers, Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen, appeared to be closing yesterday after gunmen shot dead Mr Hun Sen's brother-in-law.

fair, but tension in Phnom Penh increased sharply. "People are scared," a Western analyst in the city said. "The war of words between the leaders is increasing. The atmosphere is so hostile and the second prime minister is so irrational that anything could happen."

Confused and afraid: being German today

The German Question

As a nation of congenial warriors, the Germans do not need to be prodded into being fretful. Take Karin, having breakfast at Frankfurt airport, impatient to get off to Miami. Dressed head to ankle in denim, the 36-year-old sound engineer seems the very model of modern German womanhood — successful, independent, prosperous.



Fretful for the future, a homeless German shares his angst with his more prosperous compatriots

IAN TRAYNOR in Bonn reports, in the third of his series, on how an endemic fear of falling is determining the direction of a Germany burdened by its past and fearful of its future

An international poll on the generation gap, he said, showed an average of 15 per cent of those aged under 30 rejected their parents' values. In western Germany the figure was 30 per cent.

Crash families face cash wait

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

SAUDI Arabian Airlines, stung by accusations that it has cold-bloodedly denied the families of those killed when a Kazakh plane collided with one of its jumbo jets last week near New Delhi, says it is stepping up efforts to compensate relatives for the loss of their breadwinners.

relatively well-paid job in Arab countries. Indian newspapers have told stories of relatives who arrived at the crash site after a three-day bus journey from remote areas to be told to search the wreckage for themselves.

says it has been hampered in its efforts to contact the families because many of the dead came from remote areas of India and gave agents' addresses as their own.

However, those theories have now been discounted. "If we eliminate pilot error and we eliminate instrument error and language and such-like problems, what does it come down to: air traffic control," said Narendra Gupta, a former air vice-marshal.

But Germans also seem

Flying in Africa 'inherently risky'

Keith Harper Transport Editor

AIRLINE pilots warned yesterday that all flights in Africa were "inherently at risk". Travellers should know their flights were not continuously safeguarded and regulated, they said.

mid-air collision had been avoided only "by the most fortuitous circumstances". Its technical director, Peter Quantmore, said that when Ifalpa heard of the Indian mid-air collision last week it thought the accident had occurred in Africa.

Caribbean, and would issue its findings soon. Ifalpa has found that 75 per cent of the African air-traffic infrastructure is unsafe. In the past two years a threefold increase in traffic between Europe and South Africa has brought a series of serious incidents with safety implications.

and pilots the impression that they are flying through an area in which their flight is continuously regulated and safeguarded could not be further from the truth.

Judges dismiss Bhutto plea

PAKISTAN'S supreme court yesterday threw out Benazir Bhutto's petition challenging her dismissal as prime minister, writes Suzanne Goldenberg.

amid accusations of corruption, financial incompetence and human rights violations. She suffered another setback yesterday with the arrest of Nabeed Khan, her political secretary.

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Parliament takes on president in Belarus

Minsk crisis comes to head

Jonathan Steele in Minsk

THE long-simmering struggle in Belarus between President Alexander Lukashenko and a parliament united against him reached boiling point last night as moves to impeach the chief executive got under way. Mr Lukashenko is seeking a mandate for a vast extension of his powers in a referendum on Sunday. But the prime minister, Mikhail Chir, resigned in protest at the president's authoritarian manner. In an extraordinary late-night broadcast Mr Chir, who had been a member of the KGB as it is still called, had tapped the phones of parliamentary leaders. "The security services told me [Sergei] Kalyakin and [Semyon] Sharshinsky had talked on the phone about petrol and other inflammable material. For God's sake, perhaps they want to have another Ketchik, he told me in a reference to Adolf Hitler's action in having the German parliament building burned down. Mr Sharshinsky heads the Agrarians, the largest faction, and is chairman of parliament. Mr Kalyakin heads the Communists, the second largest. The impeachment process was begun when members of parliament handed the constitutional court a petition, signed by 80 of their number, calling for Mr Lukashenko's removal. Several hundred people gathered in Independence Square outside the parliament building yesterday as members went into emergency session to discuss the crisis. But as reports spread that the president was calling workers from state-owned factories to converge on the building to denounce them, parliamentary leaders called for a compromise. "The president has sent emissaries to the factories to summon people here. It is the final provocation to try to bring about clashes in the street," Gennady Karpenko, the deputy chairman told the hushed chamber. He and the leaders of all but one of the factions have called for the president to withdraw his draft constitution in advance of the referendum on condition that they drop their own version which would abolish the executive presidency. Despite his television attack on Mr Sharshinsky, the president agreed yesterday to meet him. He also summoned Valery Tikhniy, the chief justice of the constitutional court, who has publicly canvassed the option of both sides withdrawing their constitutional drafts. Mr Lukashenko's only comment on his meeting with Mr Tikhniy was: "If he is sincere, then there is a chance of emerging from this crisis peacefully." But a senior political source was reported as saying the president had started to consider a compromise. Britain, Germany, France, and Italy protested yesterday at the "illegal nature" of the referendum. But cancelling it would be a big climb-down for the president. His deputy chief of staff, Vladimir Zemtalin, insisted yesterday that the poll would go ahead. Mr Lukashenko was a collective farm chairman until he unexpectedly won the presidency in June 1994 with 84 per cent of the vote after gaining prominence as chairman of parliament's anti-corruption committee. Claiming to be a new broom against the old Soviet and new post-Soviet elites, he has managed to retain much of his popular support by ruthless use of the media. He has prevented parliament's draft constitution being published and last week shut the central election commission, leaving the referendum to be run by his officials. The president's constitution would make impeachment almost impossible.



Belarusians opposed to President Lukashenko gather outside parliament yesterday in Minsk as members fight to prevent a referendum which could grant him near-dictatorial powers

Belgian minister to face hearing for 'buying child sex'

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BELGIUM'S deputy prime minister, Elio Di Rupo, will face a parliamentary commission into allegations that he procured 13-year-old boys for sex, the leaders of the government and opposition parties decided yesterday. The 11-person commission will begin work today and could report back to parliament tomorrow on whether the evidence is strong enough to consider a vote on the lifting of Mr Di Rupo's immunity from prosecution. The lifting of immunity would clear the way for criminal proceedings in Belgium's supreme court. Meanwhile, the Walloonian (French-speaking) regional parliament has voted for a separate commission to investigate similar allegations against one of its ministers, Jean-Pierre Grafé. Yesterday Mr Di Rupo welcomed the setting up of the commission, although conservative and liberal opposition leaders attempted to pre-empt the process by calling for his resignation. Even his supporters appeared doubtful of his chances of survival in the government. Mr Di Rupo, who is also the economics and telecommunications minister, is the highest-ranking Socialist in Jean-Luc Dehaene's coalition government, which is likely to be further destabilised by the latest allegations. Belgium has been shocked by a series of child sex scandals. A paedophile gang in the southern city of Charleroi was discovered in August. The gang, allegedly led by Marc Duroux, specialised in the abduction, sexual abuse and murder of young girls. Public anger has been directed mainly against the police, magistrates and politicians, and culminated last month in a protest march by more than 300,000 people. Although the allegations against Mr Di Rupo and Mr Grafé are unrelated to the Duroux case, they chime with rumours of high-level corruption and cover-ups. The prime minister and his government are maintaining an icy silence over the Di Rupo affair, but ministers had made clear that no stone would be left unturned in the wide-ranging paedophile investigation launched in the wake of the Duroux case. Mr Di Rupo became embroiled in the scandal after his name, and those of other politicians, police officers and businessmen, were given to a confidential telephone line for the public, set up by investigating magistrates. Mr Di Rupo, who is open about his homosexuality, said: "I repeat for the umpteenth time that I have never been involved in paedophilia. What is happening to me now really seems like political scheming." Allegations against Mr Di Rupo, aged 45, a former university chemistry don from the southern Belgian city of

Mons, first circulated in the Flemish language press at the weekend. A former chauffeur claimed that he had driven the minister to the Brussels red-light district in his official car, cruising for boys. Mr Di Rupo said in a statement that his private life had not harmed anyone and that he had had relationships only with responsible and consenting persons. The age of consent in Belgium is 16 for both homosexuals and heterosexuals. Sex with children below that age is punishable by imprisonment of up to 10 years, even if the act is deemed as consensual. The local press quoted yesterday patrons of Le CanCan, a gay bar, and of a nearby nightclub, Le Garage, who said that the deputy prime minister was a regular visitor, ready to buy drinks for students. Mr Di Rupo said: "I have visited certain places as a free man but I always kept to the moral principle that I only had relationships with consenting people. I have never damaged the integrity of anybody." In a written statement, Mr Grafé, said the allegations against him were intended solely to harm his reputation as a public figure. But that did not stop the press from reporting that he had been investigated for having sex with minors twice before, in 1982 and 1984, and that his brother, Jacques, is serving a prison sentence for paedophile activities.

Washington veto ends Boutros-Ghali's hopes

Mark Tran in New York and Ian Black in London

THE search for another African to lead the United Nations began in earnest yesterday after the United States cast its veto to block Boutros Boutros-Ghali for a second term as secretary-general. Britain did not support the US, but last night it urged member states to avoid a "drawn-out and acrimonious debate". Earlier, France threatened to counter the American veto by blocking any candidate supported by Washington. African countries declared their support for Mr Boutros-Ghali as the continent's candidate in the next round of voting, but are privately preparing to put forward names acceptable to the five Security Council permanent members. Hamid Algabid of Niger, secretary-general of the Islamic Conference, and Kofi

Annan of Ghana, the highly regarded head of UN peacekeepers, are expected to contest the post in the next round of voting. Unusually, the 15 members of the council have agreed that an African should get the first crack at succeeding Mr Boutros-Ghali, because it is still Africa's turn to hold the job. But after this second phase the contest will be thrown open. So the pressure is on African countries to come up with an acceptable alternative or risk losing the post. Several are waiting in the wings, from Mary Robinson, president of Ireland, to Leticia Shahani, a senator from the Philippines. African diplomats want to avoid their 1981 mistake, when they backed the wrong man, Salim Salim of Tanzania, who was repeatedly vetoed by the US for thwarting its efforts to preserve a seat for Taiwan 10 years earlier.

In yesterday's secret but all-too-transparent vote, postponed from Monday for procedural reasons, the US alone opposed Mr Boutros-Ghali, abandoned even by its close allies Britain and Honduras. The other 14 Security Council members voted for reappointment. "The secretary-general is gratified and really appreciates the overwhelming support shown by member states," his spokeswoman, Sylvana Foa, said. Sir John Weston, the British ambassador, said Mr Boutros-Ghali had done a "good conscientious job", but added: "We are now in a different situation and we have to find a way out of this as quickly as possible." Foreign Office sources said Britain would back a candidate satisfactory to the US Congress, and with a deputy formally responsible for organisation and management. Leader comment, page 8

Large force for Zaire unlikely as West splits

Chris McGreal in Kigali and John Palmer in Ostend

THE prospect of significant foreign military intervention in eastern Zaire grew more remote yesterday when the United States announced that it would not send combat troops to the region as planned. The defence secretary, William Perry, said fewer than 1,000 logistical personnel would be sent because of the "very positive development" of hundreds of thousands of refugees returning to Rwanda. Threats from Rwanda and splits among European countries added to doubts over the proposed foreign force, though aid agencies insisted that hundreds of thousands of people were still trapped by fighting. As plans to deploy troops were put on hold, Britain said it would send a RAF photo-reconnaissance jet today to assess the refugee crisis. The Rwandans said they would refuse to allow a multinational force to cross their soil into Zaire, maintaining that all the refugees, such as the force was meant to help have returned home.

The foreign minister, Anastase Gasana, said Rwanda had asked the UN secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to recommend to the Security Council that a Canadian-led force was no longer necessary. It was to have carved out humanitarian corridors through rebel-held territory in eastern Zaire. "The international force's whole mission is null and void. The refugees have returned so the mission is no longer necessary," he said. Without access to Rwandan airports and roads, a multinational force would have to go directly into eastern Zaire where Rwandan-backed rebels are equally unsympathetic to foreign intervention. Britain, the US and Canada began backtracking on the need for intervention after the mass return from camps in Goma started on Friday. "Yesterday governments of the Western European Union offered to co-ordinate international aid operations in Zaire, but were divided on the issue of a large peacekeeping force. "We must reflect on whether it is really necessary to send these troops," said the German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel.

The Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, the current president of the EU Council of Ministers, warned yesterday of a "humanitarian crisis of colossal proportions" and insisted that the dispatch of a peacekeeping force must not be questioned. France is also continuing to insist a multinational mission should go ahead because although 500,000 people have crossed into Rwanda, a similar number remains unaccounted for in the areas of Bukavu, Uvira and Goma, according to the UN. Paul Strongberg, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, rejected Rwandan assertions that the aid agencies have inflated the number of refugees still stranded in Zaire. "The assumption that the 500,000 repatriated is the full caseload, or even the bulk of it, is wrong. There are still hundreds of thousands of refugees outside the country spread out over a large area." The discovery was announced by an international team of scientists, the paper said yesterday. Found with a scattering of crude stone tools in fossil sediments in the Hadar highlands of northern Ethiopia in November 1994, the 2.3 million-year-old jaw links the very beginnings of the human family to evidence of tool making, researchers said. "The finding represents the oldest association of hominid remains with stone tools and possibly the earliest well-dated occurrence of the genus Homo," they added. — AP.

News in brief

Israel arrests border police shown beating Palestinians

TWO Israeli border policemen were arrested yesterday, a day after Israel TV broadcast an amateur video of them beating, kicking and humiliating six Palestinian labourers who were trying to enter Israel illegally. The justice ministry said it was investigating another incident in which three border policemen were suspected of beating eight Palestinians. Police commanders expressed outrage at the two officers' "reprehensible" behaviour. However, both Israeli and Palestinian human rights activists said such beatings were in fact widespread, intended to discourage illegal entry. "The public security minister, Avigdor Kahalani, said beatings were 'most unusual', but added that the border police were under a lot of pressure because of their daily contacts with the Palestinians in a tense situation. "This makes them tougher in their behaviour." — AP.

Find extends human family

A JAWBONE found in Ethiopia is the most convincing and earliest dated fossil of the genus to which humans belong, extending the age of the human family line by about 400,000 years, the New York Times has reported. The discovery was announced by an international team of scientists, the paper said yesterday. Found with a scattering of crude stone tools in fossil sediments in the Hadar highlands of northern Ethiopia in November 1994, the 2.3 million-year-old jaw links the very beginnings of the human family to evidence of tool making, researchers said. "The finding represents the oldest association of hominid remains with stone tools and possibly the earliest well-dated occurrence of the genus Homo," they added. — AP.

TerreBlanche denies attack

THE South African white extremist leader Eugene TerreBlanche pleaded not guilty yesterday to the attempted murder of a black man he employed as a security guard. The court in Potchefstroom was told that Mr TerreBlanche, aged 52, knocked down Paul Motshadi and beat him repeatedly on the neck, shoulders and arms with a club or pipe. The incident occurred on March 25 in Ventersdorp, the farming town where Mr TerreBlanche's Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) has its headquarters. The witness, Gabriel Egosi-mang, who also once worked for Mr TerreBlanche as a security guard, said he ran away because Mr TerreBlanche threatened to kill him. The AWB, which opposed transition to majority rule, wants a whites-only territory free of control by blacks. — AP.

Zambian poll backs Chiluba

ZAMBIA'S early election results yesterday showed President Frederick Chiluba heading for a second term, after he barred his only serious rival, former president Kenneth Kaunda, from the poll. After a third of ballots had been counted, Mr Chiluba had won up to 90 per cent of the vote. His Movement for Multiparty Democracy had gained 39 of 42 constituencies declared in the 150-seat parliament. Mr Kaunda called for economic sanctions against Zambia to punish what he called a rigged election. A new law excluded him from the election because his parents were from Malawi and not Zambia. Dean Mung'omba, one of four candidates in the poll, also said there had been "massive rigging and electoral fraud" and added that his party would not recognise the new government. Several countries have frozen aid to Zambia this year, hoping to overturn Mr Kaunda's exclusion. — Reuter.

Cubans count blessings

Shelley Emiling in Manila reports on growing optimism among Catholics

THE cathedral in Habana Vieja — or Old Havana — will be among the churches in Cuba the Pope visits next year, after he accepted an invitation yesterday from President Fidel Castro. The worshippers are coming to mass in their hundreds because, they say, attending is now easier and because the prospect of a papal visit gives them the best reason they have had in a long time to hope — and to pray. "I am here because I want to pray to God, to thank him for allowing the Pope to come to us," said Caridad Baro, aged 56, who spends 40 cents on the bus journey to church even though she cannot afford soap. It is part of a resurgence

for the Roman Catholic church that began four years ago when President Castro restored Catholics' access to housing and jobs and allowed the church to keep its property. Since the government's change of heart, the church has enjoyed a growth in membership and visibility. "There isn't the fear among people once there was," said the Rev Orlando Cabrera, the priest at Havana's cathedral for the past year. "Religion is something people feel free to talk about." Speculation about an impending visit was fuelled last month when Archbishop Jean Louis Tauran visited Cuba — the highest-ranking Vatican official to do so in 22 years. — Cox News Service.

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OR insure your home with us and we'll replace your locks if you lose your keys. Interested? Call 0800 333 800. EAGLE STAR Direct. If you lose your keys anywhere in the UK, Eagle Star will arrange for locks on external doors to be replaced, at no extra cost. Phone for a free home insurance quote weekdays 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. We regret that we are unable to quote for rented/unfurnished accommodation.

Diary

Dan Glaister

EXCITING news from the world of spin-doctoring... update arrives on the career intentions of George Steiner...

CALLERS to the number of Ian Greer Associates... are used to hear the mantra '6661'...

ONE overseas client who won't have any further need for Mr Greer's services...

IT'S spooky... it's threatening... it's enough to give Jack Straw nightmares...

FOOD is the new rock and roll! Give me a break... Food, as any connoisseur will know...

AN AFFECTION is being circulated by features writer Annie Leask...

INTERESTING change to last night's TV schedules: Wax meets Fergie...

ANOTHER MANIFESTO AS THE Chancellor makes his final Budget refinements...

Bring back the Lord Chamberlain

Commentary Catherine Bennett

THE QUEEN has appointed a new Lord Chamberlain, Lord Camoys, the former Ralph Thomas Campion...

Cometh the hour... Could there be any clearer sign that the time has come to revive the powers of the Lord Chamberlain...

time, God will provide a natural successor to Mary Whitehouse... but can we afford to wait?

Besides, by today's standards of probity, Mary Whitehouse has been culpably indulgent. She presided, let us remember...

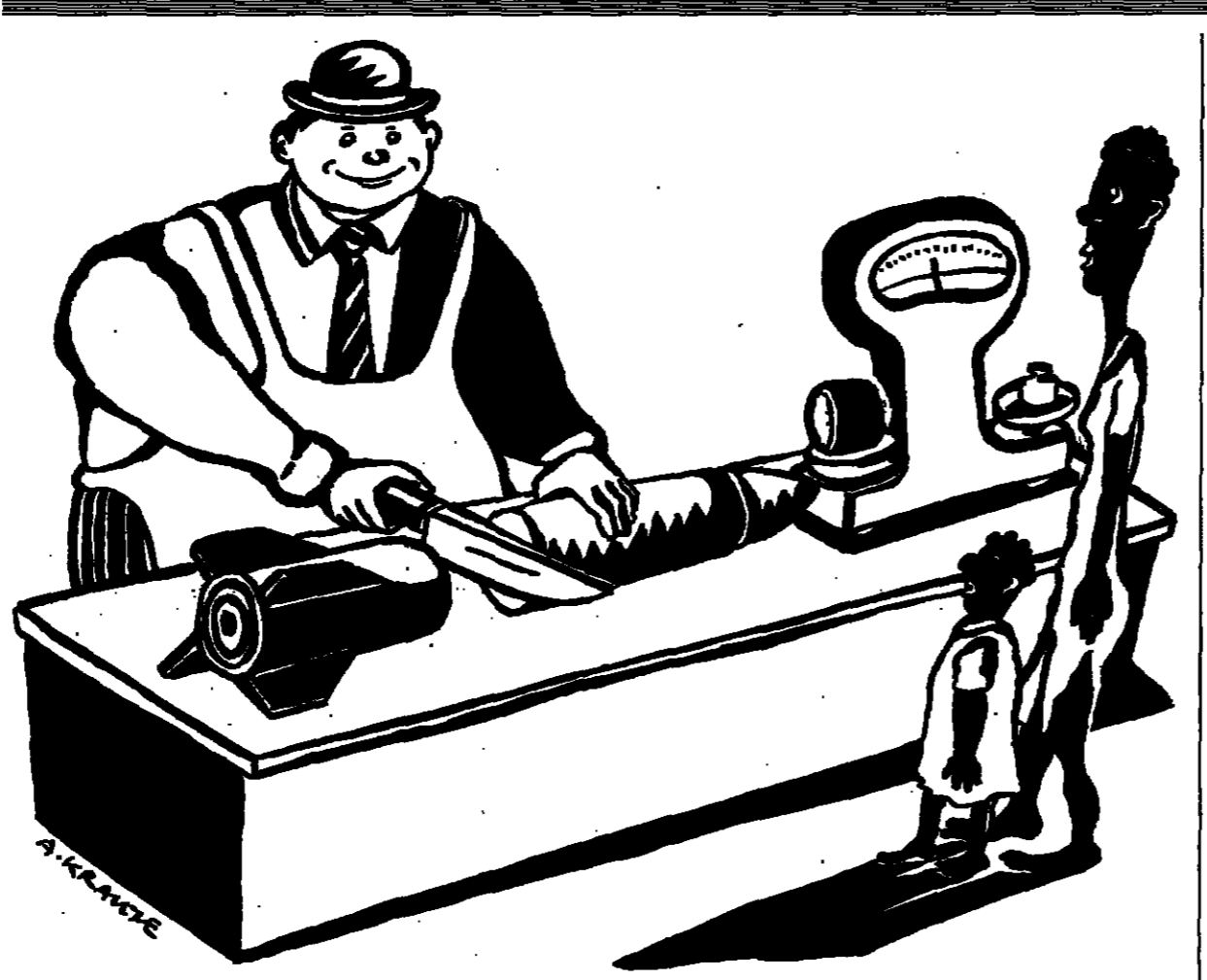
Virgin Mary, whom he apparently believes to be the immaculate mother of Jesus...

Not to be outdone by this moral austerity, Channel 4 has responded by junking...

partments into answering questions on a non-existent drug called 'cake'...

Mrs Whitehouse failed to protect us from the gratuitous violence of Reservoir Dogs and Pulp Fiction

discouraging explanation... is that the series, if it began now, would end up by polluting the festive season...



A farewell to cant?

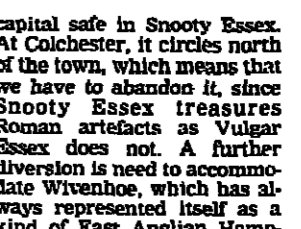
Allegations of small-arms sales to Rwanda have stung the Government into investigating the trade. But, argues Richard Norton-Taylor, Westminster has a history of weasel words not action

At a private hearing of the arms-to-Iraq inquiry...

Tutsi, was greeted with a defensive groan in Whitehall. The documents suggested that the weapons came from Israel and Albania...

Yet there are signs that things will change. Yesterday's announcement by the Government coincided with genuine public concern about arms in the wake of Dumbane. The United Nations has set up a special panel...

In praise of the cleavage of Essex



David McKie

UNTIL last weekend, I was amused by the usual jokes about Essex girls...

They have this consolation no longer. A London academic, Dr Jennifer Ward, is reported to have come up with the thesis that Essex girls were Essex girls long before the term was invented...

SECOND, it's only just that South Woodham Ferrers should take the occasional knock in return for past cohesiveness...

Advertisement for VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) featuring a cartoon character and text: 'Some people in the Third World rely on British arms. Others rely on British legs, hands, eyes, brains and ears.'

Testosterone and other taxes

businesses think more long-term and responsibly. Speculators would also suffer under plans from Nigel Lee, of Nottingham: 'A tax on the speculative movement of capital would shift economic power back to the Government and away from the financial markets'...

disproportionate amount of national income is spent on coping with the aberrant behaviour of one gender. The problem gender men, she says: 'From special schools, boot camps, football brawls, drunkenness and graffiti, to abused women and children, traffic accidents and law courts...

nile

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Prue Leith in a stew over share purchases



Paul Murphy
PRUE Leith, millionaire caterer and scourge of the corporate fat cats, was caught on the wrong side of the law yesterday.
Ms Leith, a non-executive director of Whitbread failed to declare her dealings in shares in the brewing and restaurant group in the timely manner demanded under companies legislation and enshrined in stock market listing rules.
The offence can carry a jail sentence of up to two

years, or a fine, or both.
The brewing giant is understood to have fired off a letter of apology to the Exchange yesterday, having belatedly issued details of Ms Leith's dealings.
Whitbread issued a statement yesterday morning saying the director bought 5,000 shares (her first such purchase) at 72p apiece on September 23. But it later transpired that the deal was in fact done on September 3 and at a price of 71p per share. A corrected statement was published later in the day.
Under Section 324 of the

Companies Act 1985, directors of a public limited company must notify any changes to their shareholding within five working days. And under Stock Exchange listing rules, companies must notify the Exchange of any directors' dealings immediately. Listed companies are also under an obligation to make sure directors report their dealings properly.
Aside from the jail term threatened under companies legislation, the Stock Exchange can either censure a company (publicly or privately) or it can suspend

trading in the shares. But a spokeswoman was quick to point out that it will always take a company's history on rule breaches—and also personal circumstances—into account.
A Whitbread spokesman said Ms Leith had admitted "an oversight on her part," and he did not see the matter going any further.
Ms Leith, a former Business Woman of the Year, is also a director of the Halifax Building Society, which joins the stock market next summer. Since selling her catering and restaurant businesses three years ago,

Notebook

Hard sell ahead for Eurotunnel



Edited by Alex Brummer

HAVING pulled back from the brink of financial disaster in September and seen its market share climb to about 50 per cent of Channel crossings, the management of Eurotunnel must surely have believed that the worst was over.
But now the company must grapple with an insider trading investigation by the Serious Fraud Office and the more critical issues of winning back customer and employee confidence.
Among the main draws of the Channel has been the belief by all those involved that this was a high quality engineering achievement, built and operated to the highest standards. The excellence of what it does would lead it to dominate the cross-channel market — to the point that it might even start to look like a reasonable investment early in the next century. Such analysis has now been reduced to rubble.
The immediate financial consequences of the fire, will not make a great deal of difference against Eurotunnel's reduced debt mountain. But the ongoing costs could be considerable. The greater safety cover, more engineers and enhanced customer service is needed to restore credibility.
It is confidence, rather than anything else, which will suffer as a result of Monday night's events. Before it began operations in 1994 Eurotunnel's greatest concern was that the public would distrust a new form of travel. That has gradually been overcome by the convenience of the service.
Now doubts return and within two years of operations beginning. As an on-going business Eurotunnel has a huge marketing task ahead and as a share investment it is more fragile than ever.

Export pounding

THE rebirth of sterling as the favourite currency of the foreign exchange traders goes on. Last night the pound was trading at a four-year high against the dollar at \$1.6793 and at its highest level against the German mark since 1994.
The markets have become convinced that the recent rise in base rates to 6 per cent was not enough. With the UK economy apparently booming, as reflected in the housing market and tax receipts, the Bank of England will have to tighten further with futures contracts already pointing to a 6.45 per cent short-term rate by year end.
The problem is that the strong sterling exchange rate is squeezing that part of the economy, the export sector which needs to be encouraged. The markets are forcing the authorities to pay the price for past lapses in monetary management.

Wise move

DEUTSCHE Morgan Grenfell has not been that happy a place to work of late, given the complications of bringing the investment banking and economic research operations of Deutsche Bank and Morgan Grenfell together, not to mention the dent in the group's reputation as an asset manager as a result of the Peter Young affair.
Against this background it is not surprising that there should be some high profile defections. Among them is Bronwyn Curtis, who is leaving her job as foreign exchange and bond strategist at DMG and moving to Nomura as chief economist and deputy managing director, after receiving an offer it was difficult to refuse.
Anyone unfamiliar with Ms Curtis's work can put that right on Friday when she and the other members of the panel of "wise women" economists give their advice to the Chancellor on these pages.

Systems failure

THE "health warning" with which he prefaced his lecture last night to the Securities Institute ought to have alerted Viscount Runciman's audience to the general tenor of his remarks.
Stressing his views on fraud and regulation were personal and unrelated to the Securities and Investments Board (he is joint deputy-chairman), Lord Runciman proceeded to inspect the system's many failings.
There was the "cat's cr-

Labour vow to curb water metering

Celia Weston
Industrial Correspondent

LABOUR promised a crackdown on the water industry yesterday with companies being made more accountable to customers, brought under tighter regulatory control, and forced to invest more in their infrastructure.
In its blueprint for the privatised industry Labour insisted that the 10 regional companies will not be allowed to force customers to accept water metering as a way of controlling demand.
Labour says metering, a method favoured by the Government, would affect the most vulnerable, such as pensioners and families on low income, and could threaten public health.
Water supplies are metered to about 1.6 million people, 8.2 per cent of water company

customers. Frank Dobson, shadow environment secretary, said the measures proposed by Labour in its document, Ending the Waste, would create a "world-class, water-efficient, sustainable water industry". The industry would be subject to Labour's windfall levy on utilities' profits.
Rejecting claims that Labour's plans would have to be paid for by customers through higher prices, by workers in the industry whose jobs would be threatened, and by shareholders, Mr Dobson said: "The obligations we place on the water industry will have to be financed by the water industry. It's rolling in money."
The alternative was to force people to install water meters at a cost of \$4 billion, which would also cost an extra \$500 million a year to run. "Labour is opposed to forcing people to install water meters," he said. Mr Dobson also

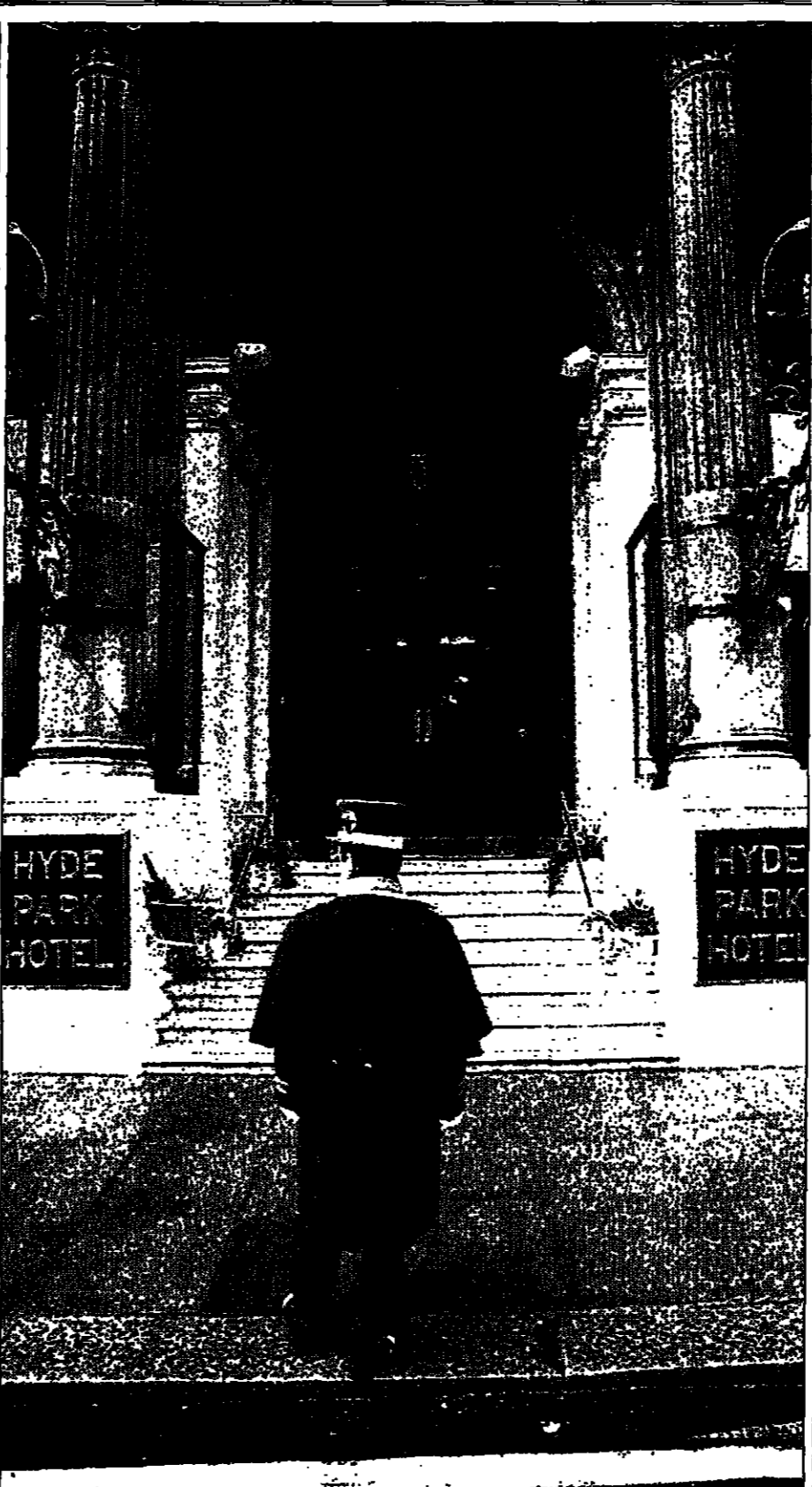
said Labour would require water companies to compensate customers when supplies were interrupted without warning and to introduce mandatory targets to cut leakage.
The companies would also be subject to higher fines for polluting, forced to invest more in sewers and pipelines, and be required to publish customer service targets and performance, he said.
But a spokeswoman for the industry regulator, Ofwat, warned last night that mandatory targets to cut leakage could lead to higher water prices. "The companies would be allowed to cite such targets in any price review by the regulator," a spokeswoman said.
A Water Services Association spokesman responded to Labour's plans by saying that water companies already had programmes for leakage control which were beginning to yield savings.
They also run extensive programmes designed to encourage customers to use water more efficiently and economically.
"In England and Wales we already have a world-class water industry, thanks mainly to the \$17 billion which has been invested since privatisation to meet quality and environmental standards and to modernise the water distribution and sewerage systems."
Mr Dobson conceded that some measures being proposed were already being carried out by water companies. But he said some of the existing voluntary targets to cut leakage were farcically low.
He added: "As far as we know from the published figures, the water companies have yet to pay corporation tax on their core water and sewerage business. Since privatisation they have made profits of \$10 billion and paid out dividends of \$3 billion." When the industry was sold for \$5 billion, the Government wrote off \$5 billion debt and gave the industry \$1.5 billion towards environmental costs.

The charges

- Water companies allow half a million gallons a minute to leak, a third of all the water going into the system.
- Although prosecuted for polluting 240 times, have been fined less than £1 million, 0.01 per cent of £10 billion profits.
- Cut investment by \$361 million in first six years of privatisation but paid £3 billion dividends.
- Invest so little it would take 425 years to renew or refine sewers and 93 years to do the same for water mains.
- Have put in place pay and profit packages for senior staff and directors worth \$20 million.
- Have allowed customers' supplies to be interrupted without warning 200,000 times in two years.

The proposals

- Set up a water industry watchdog to monitor performance and enforce standards.
- Require companies to provide free leak repairs and efficiency audits.
- Require companies to compensate customers for supply interruptions.
- Introduce tougher fines for polluters, including special measures to deal with repeat offenders.
- Industry regulator to conduct a national audit of mains and sewers.
- Require publication of annual performance targets and results for service, environmental record, investment, pay and prices, and profits.



IT HAS been home to Richard Gere, Madonna, each of the Three Tenors and is currently sheltering five ambassadors. The 185-room Hyde Park Hotel, above, was sold by Granada Group to Mandarin Oriental

International for \$26 million yesterday. Built in 1892 as a gentleman's club, it became a hotel in 1902 and currently ranks as a five star hotel where rooms cost between £200 and £1,500 a night. Its restaurant, with chef Marco Pierre White, boasts one of the best three star budgets in the UK. The hotel's name will be changed to Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park.

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Taxpayers win reprieve in VAT three-year rule

Roger Cowe

GOVERNMENT finances, budgeting with higher-than-expected tax revenues, received a setback yesterday when a High Court judge called on Customs & Excise to stop withholding millions of pounds in overpaid VAT.
The case is part of a concerted battle by businesses to overturn the Government's attempt to impose a three-year limit on the period during which VAT can be repaid, if they were successful it could lead to the repayment of up to \$25 billion.
Penny Hamilton, of accountants Coopers & Lybrand, said: "This is just the first act in a long campaign. It has shown that taxpayers are prepared to go to law to fight for VAT. I hope it gives a message to the Government to reconsider its position."
Former Paymaster General David Heathcoat-Amory announced on July 18 that legislation to limit the repayment

period to three years would be introduced in this year's Budget. Customs immediately stopped making repayments beyond that period, despite the fact that many had already been agreed with taxpayers.
The decision outraged businesses and their advisers, who pointed out Customs can make claims dating back six years and argue that both time periods should be the same.
Yesterday's test case resulted from appeals against VAT Tribunal decisions involving eight taxpayers, including the opticians' association, mail order company GUS and the National Provident building society. Mr Justice Keene said the VAT Commissioners had abused their power in stopping repayments before the new law had been passed. He said: "The applicants are entitled to payment of the outstanding sums without further delay."
The decision has encouraged campaigners who want the Government to rethink the three-year rule legislation which will be included in

Tuesday's Budget, and who hope the European Commission will overrule the Government if it fails to back down.
A spokesman for Customs said any repayments would be clawed back once the Budget becomes law. But Ms Hamilton said the judge's comments supported the view that the Government could not legitimately overturn existing agreements, and might not be entitled to impose the three-year rule.
Tony McClellan, of accountants Deloitte & Touche, said: "The decision does not directly affect Customs' proposals to introduce a three-year VAT refund limit. It may, however, mean that Customs will be forced to rethink the proposals and at least introduce proper transitional arrangements."
Liberal Democrat Euro MP Graham Watson, who has been pursuing the case with tax Commissioner Mario Monti, said: "Customs have lost an all counts — in a just world they would concede defeat and pay up."

US firm survives cash crisis to enter fray for LEB

Simon Beavis
Industrial Editor

A PRIVATE US utility, which six years ago came close to being nationalised after suffering severe financial difficulties, yesterday became the latest company to join the British electricity takeover frenzy amid suggestions it would bid for London Electricity.
Entergy, based in New Orleans, was said to have drawn up detailed plans to bid for one of the few remaining independent regional electricity companies with London seen as its prime target.
The group would only say yesterday that it was pursuing a number of power industry interests around the world including in Britain.
The Guardian has established that Entergy, which is also in the process of tying up a power station deal in Hull with British Petroleum, came close to being brought back into local government control in 1990, after its finances were hit by huge write-offs on a

\$3.5 billion nuclear power station project, Grand Gulf. The nuclear power project threw the company, formerly called Middle South Utilities, into financial crisis in the late 1980s. Its name was changed to Entergy in 1988.
Then the company was put under a tough price capping regime to compensate customers. A Entergy spokesman said that suggestions that up to \$300 million had been clawed back in excess profits sounded "a little high".
The US group said that senior directors of Entergy Power, an international subsidiary of the utility based in Little Rock, Arkansas, are in London led by Bob Cushman, the vice president of finance, and are thought to be finalising talks with BP on building a plant in Sahndra, near Hull.
The disclosure that a potential bidder for a privatised group came close to being "nationalised" will put renewed pressure on the Government to resist the latest wave of US takeover bids for electricity companies.

Iran plays down controversy and tries to entice business

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

LITTLE Iranian flag draped convivially alongside miniature Union Jacks yesterday as the Islamic Republic sought to tempt cautious British businessmen into its potentially lucrative market.
Scores of firms were represented at a CBI conference to hear an Iranian team advertise a country striving for regional stability and liberalising its economy so as to attract foreign investment.
Serious problems remain though and one clue was given by the deputy oil minister, Mohammad Najad Hosseini, who attacked "short-sighted and futile" attempts by the United States to isolate his country.
British officials steered well away from this hot po-

lato: Jeffrey James, our man in Tehran, referred only to "problems that we all know about", but said slowly evolving economic policy offered opportunities for UK firms.
CBI figures show mounting though still relatively modest British interest in Iran: last year exports totalled \$330 million, up 15 per cent on 1994, and made the UK the only leading OECD country to increase its exports.
Britain finds itself in a quandary in its dealings with Tehran: it backs US criticism of Iran over its nuclear ambitions, its support for terrorism and opposition to the Middle East peace process, and it has a particular problem with the unresolved Rushdie fatwa.
But it also strongly opposes the unilateral US sanctions which target non-American companies and those investing in the energy sector.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.04	France 8.23	Italy 2.485	Singapore 2.20
Austria 17.18	Germany 2.44	Malta 0.5785	South Africa 7.5
Belgium 50.25	Greece 35.00	Netherlands 2.74	Spain 252.00
Canada 2.19	Hong Kong 12.82	New Zealand 2.29	Sweden 10.88
Cyprus 0.74	India 50.75	Norway 10.34	Switzerland 2.05
Denmark 9.41	Israel 0.5675	Portugal 245.00	Turkey 158.887
Finland 7.21	Ireland 5.39	Saudi Arabia 4.24	USA 1.5385

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupees and Israeli sheqels).

Racing

Weights and cash rise in National

Ken Oliver

TOP weight for next year's Grand National is to be increased to 12st from 11st 10lb and the prize money topped by £200,000 to £250,000 in a bid to attract class horses...



Honest effort... Tissue Of Lies (right) gets the better of Passage Creeping at Lingfield yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Charles Barnett, managing director at Alnwick, said: "We feel by substantially increasing prize money and altering the race conditions we have taken positive steps to achieving our objective of a Martell Grand National field that is strong both in quality and number..."

really well. But we are not obsessed by the King George and if necessary we will wait until the new year... Tissue Of Lies (right) gets the better of Passage Creeping at Lingfield yesterday

both Kempton and Haydock should have a full day, but Wetherby became the first victim of the weather...

dividend was explained by Jennifer Hurley, Tote Racecourse manager, who said: "We had no Tote operating on the track but betting was going on from Newton Abbot and Wetherby, before they called that meeting off..."

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Haydock with form guide

- 1.10 QUEEN OF SPAINES (mop) 2.40 Polesanto (mb) 1.40 Sabel Chat 3.10 Thunders Up 2.10 Unquipped Mistle 2.40 Milla Douring

1.10 HUNTER-LE-WILLOWS POLICE BARNEY ONLY NOVEMBER BURLE 2m £2,500 1.10-12 QUEEN OF SPAINES (14) (2) M Thunders Up 6-11-0...

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Hereford runners and riders

- 1.00 Purman 1.20 Where's the Wife 2.00 Alice's Mirror 1.00 What's Your Story 1.20 Let's Be Frank 2.00 Goodie's World

1.00 PURMAN 1.20 WHERE'S THE WIFE 2.00 ALICE'S MIRROR 1.00 WHAT'S YOUR STORY 1.20 LET'S BE FRANK 2.00 GOODIE'S WORLD

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Cricket

Missing Jones lets Harris off the hook

Andy Wilson in Melbourne

ANDREW HARRIS has been spared a tricky decision by the withdrawal of his Derbyshire captain Dean Jones from the Victoria team to face England A in the four-day game starting at the Optus Oval here tomorrow...

Law latest to leave Sussex

SUSSEX yesterday lost their third high-profile player in two days when the all-rounder Danny Law joined Essex on a three-year contract...

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Results

LINGFIELD 1.30 (1st) 5. ROYAL ACTON, 1.35 (2nd) 1.1. ROYAL ACTON, 1.40 (3rd) 1.1. ROYAL ACTON...

Results

CSP: 11.10.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20.21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42.43.44.45.46.47.48.49.50.51.52.53.54.55.56.57.58.59.60.61.62.63.64.65.66.67.68.69.70.71.72.73.74.75.76.77.78.79.80.81.82.83.84.85.86.87.88.89.90.91.92.93.94.95.96.97.98.99.100.

Results

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RACELINE 0930 168+ 101 102 203 202

14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer

Fair dinkum Venables back like a boomerang for Australia job

Martin Thorpe on why England's former coach relishes exotic World Cup mission

ONE phrase at yesterday's press conference really summed it up...

First Division: Man City 0, Huddersfield 0

City on road to recovery

Paul Fitzpartick

THE road to recovery begins with a first step and although this goalless draw represented another disappointing experience for Manchester City...

Town's anxiety and within minutes they were given real cause to sweat, not surprisingly by Kinkladze...

Oxford United 0, Bolton Wanderers 0

Wanderers fail to pass their latest Oxford examination

Jeremy Alexander

BOLTON seem unchastised by their Premier League experience and eager to go back for more...

Aldridge was replaced by Rush at the interval and Bolton tried to pep up their attack...

The 1997 Guide to Quality Watches. 140 colour pages packed with advice & essential info.

hepted for. Those players I've spoken to are widely excited by the prospect and I think Australia is excited by it.

Venables' first games come in January: a four-nation tournament in Australia against Korea, New Zealand and Norway.



Venables... no regrets

Champions League, Group C Manchester United v Juventus

United heads are still above water

David Lacey thinks a draw may rescue Alex Ferguson

ALEX FERGUSON is rather taken with the idea of making tonight's visit of Juventus to Old Trafford a flag day...

Rangers v Grasshopper Zurich

Scots anxious to save face against their Swiss critics

Patrick Glenn

WINLESS, pointless and seemingly clueless after four consecutive defeats in the Champions League...



Gripping stuff... Bunlock resorts to a spot of sleeve-tugging as Kinkladze gives him the slip

Milosevic is staying with Villa

THE proposed \$4.5 million transfer of the Aston Villa striker Savo Milosevic to the Italian club Perugia was called off last night...

Scotland would accept that data, but want the match staged closer to Britain for the sake of their supporters.

Results

Table listing sports results for Soccer, First Division, Scottish League, American Football, Basketball, Cricket, Equestrianism, Ice Hockey, and Tennis.

Sport in brief

Motor Sport: A retired rally driver from Norway, Rein Stetsum, was killed yesterday in a head-on collision...

Basketball

The London Towers left qualified on for the next round of the European Cup in the balance after falling 70-51 to PTT Ankara in front of a 6,000 crowd in Turkey yesterday.

Old thul... claps for... trajice

Angis di... h rep

Reebok's £1... breaks sports

Tennis

Old thunder claps for Krajicek

Stephen Barley in Hanover

It is no use pretending the Expo 2000 site on the outskirts of Hanover is a thing of beauty. Not even yesterday's covering of snow could add anything in the way of charm, but then these ATP World Championships are not about charm or beauty; they are about Boris Becker.

That windy, wet, miserable and unpredictable Wimbledon seems a long time ago and for Krajicek the post-title blues have weighed heavily on his broad Dutch shoulders.

Hingis displays rich repertoire

Chris Bowers in New York

MARTINA HINGIS served notice that she is now a threat to anyone in the women's game with a highly impressive 6-1, 6-2 win over Irina Spirlea on the opening day of the year-ending Chase Championships.

the 1990s, but Hingis has the extra couple of dimensions which should make her the world No. 1 before long. She has matured markedly in recent months, and in the past five weeks has reached three finals, winning two, Philadelphia and Oakland; and in Oakland she beat Monica Seles in the final.

Athletics

Reebok's £1 million deal breaks sponsorship record

Duncan Mackay

REEBOK, the American sportswear company founded in Bolton more than a century ago, has outbid its biggest rivals Nike and Adidas to sign a deal worth £1 million a year to British athletics.

The deal, which will be officially announced next month, is a coup for the BAF. Reebok is offering 10 times what View From was paying and the agreement is even better than the one that Nike struck with USA Track & Field, which annually earns American athletes £200,000.



Getting into the swing of things... Andy Gomarsall acting out his new role during the England work-out at Bisham Abbey

Enter pocket battleship with attitude

Ian Malin says Twickenham and Italy will hold no fears for Andy Gomarsall, the surprising choice at scrum-half for England

BISHAM ABBEY in the late-autumn sunshine looks a picture. The England squad in their pristine kit are having a gentle work-out interrupted by Jack Rowell's chortling laughter from the touchline.

their trade because of the new law that prevents opposing back-rows from leaving scrums until the ball is released by the No. 8s. That extra second or two gives a powerful player such as Gomarsall the opportunity to cause more havoc.

Hockey

Royce given chance to win his spurs

Pat Rowley

JON ROYCE, the England Under-21 coach, will act as senior team coach at the six-nation Pakistan Golden Jubilee Tournament in Karachi in March.

Rugby League

Rich pickings for Wire

Paul Fitzpatrick

THERE are sure to be frictions next season in Australia where two competitions will be running, and that cannot be in the game's best interests. But at least the damaging legal battles are at an end, and the unravelling at Headingley today of next year's Super League programme, which includes an international cup competition of all 22 European and Australian Super League sides, will take place in an atmosphere free of uncertainty.

Snooker

Wattana in trouble as Hunter keeps two-frame advantage

Clive Everton

PAUL HUNTER, an 18-year-old from Yorkshire who last February became the youngest ever semi-finalist in a world-ranking event, the Regal Welsh Open at Newport, struck back-to-back centuries to lead James Wattana 6-3 yesterday. The winner will claim a place in the 16-man televised phase of the UK Championship at Preston Guild Hall.

Badminton

Knowles given chance to make amends

Richard Jago

PETER KNOWLES's unexpected defeat by Ji Xing-Peng at Mansfield the previous night made certain that the outcome of England's series against China would not be decided until the last of the six matches was played at Sheffield last night.

Team talk

The independent news and reports service 0891 33 77+

Table with 4 columns: Team, Score, Team, Score. Lists football results for various teams like Arsenal, Aston Villa, Birmingham City, etc.

Missing Jones lets Harris off hook, page 13
The Socceros get their man, page 14

Becker keeps the home crowds buzzing, page 15
England's new scrum-half in focus, page 15

Sports Guardian

SOCCER: UEFA CUP

Third round, first leg: Metz 1, Newcastle United 1

Beardsley on the spot

Michael Walker in Metz

NEWCASTLE survived a freezing night in France and a second-half rally by Metz and the last eight of this competition.

Speculation before kick-off had changed from whether Alan Shearer would be fit enough to sit on the bench — the rather more dramatic topic of whether the game would start at all.

A blanket of thick snow was falling on Metz from about four o'clock and when the teams arrived at the ground the pitch was covered in snow. However, by kick-off time only traces of white remained even if the temperature was zero degrees.

With both Shearer and Ferdinand absent Keegan nevertheless chose to keep Kitson as a substitute and instead gave Barton his third start of the season. Elliott, the other casualty from Saturday, gave way to Beresford in a flat back four.

As early as the first minute they were given a characteristic fright by the increasingly erratic kicking of Srnicek. The Newcastle goalkeeper scuffed his clearance straight to Metz's red-booted danger-man Pires, but to his surprise he missed control and Traore was ruled outside.

Fortunately for Newcastle Srnicek's next intervention in the 15th minute was considerably more proficient when he reacted sharply to paw away the lively Traore's downward header from Isalas's short corner.

There was an inquest in the Newcastle defence after that because Traore was unmarked and five minutes later when the man from Senegal surged into the box, Albert made sure the first foot to the ball was Belgian.

The French were beginning to show touches of cohesion and it looked at this stage that Asprilla was going to have a long, lonely night in isolation. Yet the Colombian was showing a genuine relish for the occasion fighting vigorously for apparently lost causes. On the half hour he



Earning his stripes... the Newcastle striker Faustino Asprilla turns Metz's defence inside-out last night

PHOTOGRAPH TONY MARS

did just that again and earned Newcastle a spectacular reward.

Chasing a long free-kick from Albert, Asprilla nipped in between his two markers, Terrier and Kastenduch, nicked the ball past both and the advancing goalkeeper Le-

tizi, and seemed set to score until Letizi brought him down.

It was an obvious penalty and Beardsley, who missed one in the last round against Ferencvaros, made no mistake this time, drilling the ball low into the bottom cor-

ner. The roar from the travelling Newcastle fans was immense as was Batty's performance.

Hustling, tackling, worrying — Batty kept everyone in black and white moving. But in a see-saw game Metz were trading bounce for bounce.

Either side of the interval shots from Pires and then Traore flew narrowly wide of Srnicek's posts and then Pires volleyed sumptuously, but again off target, after intricate approach play by Arpinon.

An equaliser in this period shortly after half-time would not have flattered but Srnicek by now had warmed to his task and with Elliott on for the injured Beresford the Newcastle backline was giving anyone to ask permission to speak to Hodgson. "We are first in the League and playing in the Uefa Cup and the Italian Cup, so we are fully satisfied with what Roy is doing," said Visconti.

rush at Lang's cross from the left.

Charging recklessly towards the penalty spot Srnicek forgot about Traore who jumped simply before the goalkeeper got there and put his back header into the by now empty net.

Metz: Letizi, Song, Kastenduch, Saradzuan, Pires, Blanchard, Isalas, Traore, Lang, Terrier, Arpinon. Newcastle: Srnicek, Barton, Elliott, Smail, Beresford, Batty, Peacock, Lee, Beardsley, Asprilla, Glisic, Gitezas, Albert.

Referee: G Berio (Austria). Internationalists yesterday played down speculation linking their English coach Roy Hodgson with a move to Blackburn. The Italian club's vice-president Gianmaria Visconti said they had received no approach from Jack Walker's club and in any case the time was not right for anyone to ask permission to speak to Hodgson. "We are first in the League and playing in the Uefa Cup and the Italian Cup, so we are fully satisfied with what Roy is doing," said Visconti.

Abstinence makes book grow fonder



Jim White

WHAT IS Mike Atherton going to do with himself over the next few months of bloody tramping around Zimbabwe and New Zealand? There won't be any women to distract the touring party; well, at least no wives and girlfriends, left at home by a chaste new official directive. After a while the group-bonding prunks, boat races and beer monsterings organised by the party's new technical adviser Ian Botham will fail. To help fill the lousy, lonely days, Atherton could do worse than pop a couple of books into his hold-all before he sets off next week; Mike Marqusee's *War Minus The Shooting* (Heinemann) and Robert Winder's *Hell For Leather* (Gollancz), two wildly different accounts of the last cricket World Cup, for instance.

He won't learn much he doesn't know from them, but it will be comforting to appreciate that other people are aware of the truth that dominates his life: as England cricket captain he enters the fray not so much with one hand tied behind his back as with all his limbs trussed up like the participant in a sadomasochistic ritual. Except, in the case of the English game, there is nothing sad about it.

Marqusee, the American cricket convert, makes the unhappy observation that it was possible to enjoy the World Cup while avoiding England entirely; they were, after all, also-rans, left behind in the wash of the game's modernisation, their participation an irrelevance. "No team contributed less to the competition, won fewer friends or made more enemies."

Winder, on the other hand, chooses to attach himself to England, and observes their shame from close quarters; his account is thus the more instructive. And its conclusions are all the more damning because, as his graceful prose suggests, he is no curmudgeon, rather he seems desperate to have something positive to write home about.

Instead, it is the long list of English failure he has to communicate with his wry pen; poor preparation, amateurish public relations, players no longer capable of doing any-

thing but complaining about a job most of us fans would kill for. And over it all the withering drone of Geoff Boycott, the team's tormentor-in-chief, whose name would translate into Apache as "He Who Knows It All".

One thing, though, Winder reckons, it was not the players' fault. Were they from any other country, Thorpe, Cork, Stewart and Atherton would be sitting at home during the point, were the Waugh, De Silva, Jayasuriya and Jonty Rhodes English, they would be on the losing side. Had Sachin Tendulkar been born in this country, Winder suggests, this is how he would have ended up: sitting at home during the forthcoming winter tour, publicly humiliated by his international manager, widely reckoned a criminal waster of natural talent. Just like Mark Ramprakash, in fact.

We all know what Winder is on about, that England have been left behind in the international game not because the talent has dried up but because they insist on entering the fray dragged down by the pair of concrete boots that is the county circuit, the morale-sapping grind that wore down even the likes of Brian Lara and Allan Donald.

We know that money drawn from popular international matches is wasted subsidising something that no one — players or spectators — wants. We know it is a pointless, counter-productive, second-rate operation which resembles nothing more than the Scottish Premier Division. Except without Rangers and Celtic.

ATHERTON knows it, too. He knows that imposing a banking ban, bringing in an old maestro as coach and organising a tour against the weaker nations in the hope of building a winning habit is just rearranging the deck-chairs on the Titanic. Unless the whole structure is changed, his winters — and most of his summers — will continue spinning down a vortex of misery.

But he, like Winder and the rest of us, knows the only hope is that some Goebbels or De Klerk emerges from within the county structure and persuades his colleagues to vote themselves into oblivion for the sake of the country.

An unlikely thought, that. After all, if the blazerist didn't have their privileges, how would they get tickets for the 200 World Cup final at Lord's? Sri Lanka v India; should be a cracker, that. Especially as it will provide endless opportunity to engage in the national sport: wondering why we can't produce players like that any more.

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INSIST ON ABSOLUT. THE ONLY VODKA WITH NO PESTICIDES IN ITS LIQUOR. NOSE DARK.

Guardian Crossword No 20,815



He is that rarest of creatures, the radical playwright with the industrialist's income. As an English theatre critic drily observed on visiting Fo's flat in Milan: "Clearly, Dario Fo has made a spectacular recovery from any early belief that property is theft."
Lyn Gardner

G2 page 8

Set by Shed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

- Across**
- 9 An Arab's mount, perhaps, without lines to the constellation (5)
 - 10 Knock out model making comeback in the city (5)
 - 11 Gift of 18 bearing South (7)
 - 12 Walk with a slightly disabled US lawyer (7)
 - 13 Russian front one preceded (4)
 - 14 Chauvinist taking time to fix and categorise (10)
 - 16 Mean to say a vicar gets a return (7)
 - 17 Happened to find origin of Norman church in African state (7)
 - 19 Rule on motorway receiving gift? Vice versa (10)
 - 22 Word beloved of fundamentalists? (4)
 - 24 Greek entertainer performed the aria (7)
- Down**
- 1 Shed goes to China and Poland for a piece of 23 (7,3,5)
 - 2 Ideal place for modern art collection lacking bite (8)
 - 3 See 20
 - 4 Fall about in charge for bromine (8)
 - 5,8 Weathercock Foreign Office featured in show — a racket, taking soft drink with piece of 23 (6,3,1,4,7)
 - 6 Native of the kingdom — precipitate Scot (5)
 - 7 Overthrow overturned by 23 (6)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,814

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

- 8 See 5
- 15 One using needle at sea on ship (5)
- 17 18 concealing quiet force making 27 (6)
- 18 MC almost introducing large musician (9)
- 20,3 Ministry, therefore, wearing trousers in 23 suite (6,5)
- 21 Nightmare culture raised by universal scholar (6)
- 23 18 in tangle (5)

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